

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture of Kluyveromyces marxianus strain SSSJ-0 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-3567 deposited on July 26, 2001 yeast of the genus Kluyveromyces, wherein the culture is capable of proliferation in an aqueous medium comprising a pentose as the sole carbon source.

2. (Original) The biologically pure culture of claim 1, wherein the pentose is selected from the group consisting of xylose and L-arabinose.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture of Kluyveromyces marxianus strain SSSJ-0 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-3567 deposited on July 26, 2001 yeast of the genus Kluyveromyces, wherein the culture is capable of growth in an aqueous medium comprising, wherein the sole carbon source is selected from the group consisting of cellulose or a cellulose derivative, recycled paper sludge, brewer's spent grain, corn stover hydrolysate, sugared lignin hydrolysate, and combinations thereof as the sole carbon source.

6. (Currently amended) The biologically pure culture of claim 5, wherein the cellulose or cellulose derivative is selected from the group consisting of: carboxymethylcellulose, high crystalline cellulose from wood pulp (Avicel®), cellulose (SigmaCell®), and combinations thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The biologically pure culture of claim 5, wherein the culture is further capable of fermenting the cellulose or cellulose derivative to ethanol.

11. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of producing ethanol from an aqueous medium comprising a saccharide selected from the group consisting of cellobiose, glucose, mannose, galactose, and combinations thereof, the method comprising the steps of

(a) contacting an aqueous medium comprising a saccharide selected from the group consisting of cellobiose, glucose, mannose, galactose, and combinations thereof, with ~~a~~the biologically pure culture of claim 1; and

(b) incubating the aqueous medium under conditions wherein the saccharide is fermented to ethanol.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of recovering the ethanol.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the aqueous medium is incubated at a temperature between about 43 °C and about 45 °C.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of producing ethanol from an aqueous medium containing cellulose, the method comprising the steps of

(a) contacting an aqueous medium containing cellulose with ~~a~~the biologically pure culture of claim 5; and

(b) incubating the aqueous medium under conditions wherein the cellulose is fermented to ethanol.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of recovering the ethanol.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the aqueous medium is incubated at a temperature between about 43 °C and about 45 °C.

19-30. (Cancelled)